

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 5-12 are pending in this application, of which all the claims have been amended. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled in this Response.

Claim 1 has been amended, whose basis is found at original claims 2 and 4, and Fig. 3.

(1) Claims 1-3 and 7 were rejected under 35USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Vincent (US 5,447,309).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 4, which makes the rejection moot.

(2) Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Teramoto (US 6,315,678).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 4 and new recitation of “being separated from the face section.” Although the Office Action mentions Fig.7f of Teramoto, the club disclosed in Fig.7f of Teramoto is #10, which has a loft angle much larger than $11\pm 2^\circ$. Please note that Fig. 7a discloses a #1 club, but it is disclosed to have a weight 1 at the rear side and a weight 1’ at the face section. Thus, claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by Teramoto.

Application No. 10/781,633
Response dated March 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 14, 2004

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(3) Claims 1, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Hasebe (US 6,254,494).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 4, which makes the rejection moot.

(4) Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Teramoto in view of Vincent and Hasebe.

Claims 7-9 depend on amended claim 1. In addition, the features of claims 7-9 are not disclosed in the references. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(5) In view of the above, claims 1, 3, and 5-11, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

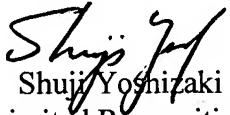
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No. 10/781,633
Response dated March 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 14, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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